

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

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O R 301354Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7528

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 14940

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ASEC ET

SUBJECT: RELOCATION AND CONSOLIDATION OF AMERICANS

REF: ASMARA 1020, ADDIS 14833

EMBASSY WILL MAKE DEMARCHES TO MOFA AND MINISTRY OF DEFENSE DEC. 31 TO REQUEST STATIONING OF ARMED MILITARY PERSONNEL AT BAROTOLO ESTATES IN ASMARA ASAP. EMBOFFS WILL LEAVE FOLLOWING AIDE-MEMOIRE WITH EPMG AUTHORITIES AND REPORT RESPONSE AS SOON AS KNOWN:

QUOTE. ON 21 DECEMBER 1975, A FIFTH AMERICAN EMPLOYEE OF THE KAGNEW COMMUNICATION STATION IN ASMARA WAS ABDUCTED BY ERITREAN INSURGENTS, THIS TIME FROM HIS PLACE OF RESIDENCE WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS. IN AN EFFORT TO PRECLUDE A FURTHER REPETITION OF THIS TYPE OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AND WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF BG GETACHEW, MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR FOR ERITREA, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAD DECIDED TO RELOCATE AND CONSOLIDATE THE LIVING QUARTERS OF AMERICAN CIVILIAN PERSONNEL EMPLOYED AT KAGNEW STATION. TWO HOUSING AREAS HAVE BEEN SELECTED FOR THIS PURPOSE: ONE SITE IS LOCATED IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO TRACT E AND 2ND DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND IS CONSIDERED REASONABLY SECURE DUE TO THE PRESENCE OF 2ND DIVISION FORCES IN
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THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY. THE SECOND SITE IS LOCATED AT

BAROTOLO ESTATES WHICH IS SITUATED SOME DISTANCE FROM;
THE PERIMETER OF THE 2ND DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AND THERE-
FORE IS CONSIDERED BY AMERICAN SECURITY OFFICIALS VULNERABLE
TO INSURGENT ACTION UNLESS ARMED STATIONARY GUARD POSTS
ARE ESTABLISHED AROUND THE SITE.

"THE MATTER OF OBTAINING ARMED GUARDS FOR THE BAROTOLO
ESTATES SITE WAS DISCUSSED INCONCLUSIVELY WITH THE COMMAND-
ING OFFICER OF THE SECOND DIVISION ON DECEMBER 23, 1975,
AND THE QUESTION OF PROTECTION FOR THIS LOCATION THERE-
FORE STILL REMAINS OPEN.

"THE EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE
PROTECTION OF OFFICIAL AMERICAN PERSONNEL IN ASMARA RESTS
WITH THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF SOCIALIST
ETHIOPIA. SUCH PROTECTION IS ALREADY BEING PROVIDED FOR
THE TRACT BRAVO INSTALLATION OF KAGNEW STATION. THE
EMBASSY, HAVING IN MIND THAT FIVE AMERICANS HAVE ALREADY
BEEN KIDNAPPED IN THE ASMARA AREA, THEREFORE REQUESTS
THAT THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF SOCIALIST
ETHIOPIA EXTEND THIS PROTECTION TO INCLUDE THE BAROTOLO
ESTATE SITE DESCRIBED IN THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF THIS
AIDE-MEMOIRE. SINCE AMERICAN PERSONNEL HAVE ALREADY
BEEN MOVED FROM THEIR FORMER RESIDENCES INTO TEMPORARY
QUARTERS, AND SINCE THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT THE
NEW QUARTERS WILL BE AVAILABLE ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, THE
EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY
GOVERNMENT OF SOCIALIST ETHIOPIA WOULD TAKE THE APPROP-
RIATE MEASURES TO INSURE THAT ARMED GUARDS ARE PROVIDED
FOR THIS NEW SITE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. END QUOTE.
HUMMEL

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